

The Korea Daily News.
Seoul, Korea, Wednesday, Apr. 14th, 1924

**WHY I WENT ON
THE STAGE**
By Sir John Martin Harvey

VIII

We opened at Newcastle, and I may guess how fresh I was to stage when I tell you my only idea living in a strange town was to put at the best hotel. It never occurred me that three pounds a week would not go very far, and I am afraid knowledge of the value of money practically nil. During that first week I put up at the Station Hotel and was, I think, the wonder and admiration of the town in the eyes of other members of the company. In my brief splendor came to an end with a hideous crash. When I received my bill my salary would not cover it and the hotel people would not let me depart. If the manager of the company had not advanced me another week's salary I'm afraid I should have been there to-day—in pawn.

Five week's touring saw me once more among the unemployed, and it was eight months before I got an engagement one of the Lyceum young men.

I went to Irving raw and unfinished. I came away well equipped—as a critics kindly say—with a sound technique. This reminds me of Irving saying, when I had been excessively stupid at rehearsal: 'My boy, you ought to be paying me for teaching you instead of expecting me to pay you.'

And he was quite right.

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